THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) On the recommendations of the State Government of Bihar the Ministry approved a grant-in-aid of Rs. 5,64,188/- for the construction of a hostel building for 30 working women by Arjun Mahila Shilp Kala Kendra at Jamshedpur at an estimated cost of Rs. 7,52,250/- on 18 June, 1986. Simultaneously, an amount of Rs. 1,41,047/- was released as first instalment of grant-in-aid, as per provisions of the Scheme.

(b) and (c) On a complaint, an enquiry was conducted through the State Government of Bihar, which brought out certain irregularities. Therefore, the amount of Rs. 1,41,047/- alongwith interest has since been recovered from the agency. A ban has also been imposed on further grants to this Organisation.

Area in adverse possession of Bangladesh

796. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 865 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st March, 1989 and state:

(a) the exact area of Assam presently under the adverse possession of Bangladesh indicating the location and since when it is under their possesson; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government so far to get back this area and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) According to information provided by the Government of Assam, approximately 761.81 acres are under the adverse possession of Bangladesh, in the Dhubri, Cacher and Karimganj districts. This land has been in the adverse possession of Bangladesh since before the formation of Bangladesh. Certain small areas of Bangladesh have also been in India's adverse possession.

(b) The Indo-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement of 1974 provides that areas in adverse possession of either country may be exchanged after the Agreement is ratified. As the Agreement has not been ratified so far, this matter has not progressed further.

Estimated profit/losses of Indian Airlines and Air India

797. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated profit/loss of Indian Airlines and Air India (separately) during the year 1988-89; and

(b) how does it compare with that during the previous year and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) During 1988-89, Indian Airlines and Air India have earned provisional net profit of Rs. 14.10 crores and Rs. 30 crores respectively.

(b) Indian Airlines had made a net profit of Rs. 30.10 crores during 1987-88. The decline in profitability during 1988-89 has been mainly due to cost escalation, non-availability of leased aircraft and grounding of aircraft, steep increase in the exchange rate of US dollars, increase in landing and navigational charge, payment of additional grants-in-aid to IGRUA etc.

On the other hand Air India had incurred a net loss of Rs. 43.41 crores during 1987-88 as against net profit of Rs. 30 crores during 1988-89. Exceptionally good performance of Air India as compared to the previous year, has been possible due to several factors such as introduction of non-stop flights on various sectors, introduction of additional flights to London, Frankfurt, Tokyo, more direct point to point operations within India and Gulf, etc.

Nepotism in Scholarship Schemes

798. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report which appeared in 'The Times of India, of 22nd March, 1989 to the effect that nepotism and skilful twisting of rules was prevailing in his ministry to favour certain candidates for scholarships being given to students going abroad for postgraduate studies and doctoral research; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether any inquiry was made in this regard, if so, what are the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) The press report in question has come to the notice of the Government. Recommendations regarding award of scholarships under the Scheme of Scholarships for Study Abroad for the year 1988-89 were found to be irregular in three cases and were not acted upon.

(b) The report of inquiry into the circumstances of these irregular selections is under consideration of Government.

Recommendations of the National Perspective Plan for Women

799. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps suggested in the National Perspective Plan for women's development in order to ensure participation of women in the decision making bodies at all levels;

(b) what are the schemes suggested in the Plan to benefit the rural women;

(c) whether any action plan has been suggested therein for a Uniform Civil Code to stop discrimination against women in all walks of life; and

(d) at what stage the plan is at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) The National Perspective Plan recommends that women must not only be beneficiaries of the development process but participants. To this effect it suggests that 30 per cent reservation should be made for women in Panchayats and other elected bodies upto the district level with 30 per cent reservation amongst the office bearers of such bodies. Atleast 30 per cent of the candidates of political parties in elections to State Assemblies and the Parliament should be